

Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

A Service of Lessons and Carols
December 25, 2018 • 11:15am



921 Madison Avenue • mapc.com • 212.288.8920

Welcome to Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

Whether you are a first-time visitor or a long-time member . . .

Whether you are new to or uncertain about this whole idea of church . . .

Whether you grew up Presbyterian or Baptist or Jewish or agnostic . . .

Whether you came with a friend or just wandered in accidentally . . .

Whether you are in search of comfort or wanting to be challenged . . .

Whatever reason brought you to worship today, you are welcome here and you have made us better by being present with us. In the midst of a big and busy city, we are a church that takes seriously Jesus' instructions to love God, love one another, and love our neighbors. Our worship style is traditional and true to our Reformed heritage. At the same time, we seek to bring our faith into conversation with the world around us and the events of our lives.

After worship, we gather in our Church House for fellowship, coffee, and cookies. Please join us. We think you'll find us to be a friendly and approachable group of people trying our best to live like Jesus teaches. But if you're looking for a perfect church, we're not it. We don't always get it right. Rather, we're a group of imperfect people who understand how much we all need grace in our lives. And we believe that God's love, which never gives up and never lets go, is for everyone. Including you.

There is a place for you here. We're delighted you've joined us today.



Rev. Jenny McDevitt
Senior Pastor

Children Are Always Welcome

Your children are always welcome here at MAPC, and they are welcome to stay with you in worship. Little ones can't help but make a bit of noise from time to time. If it is your preference, however, children three and under may be taken to the Nursery on the 4th floor. The Narthex and the Children's Library are also available. Speakers provide audio of the service.

Membership and More Information

For those interested in exploring the possibility of membership or learning more about who we are and what we do, we periodically host a "Tell Me More About MAPC" conversation. The next gathering will be held Jan. 12, 2019, at 9 am in the Phillips Lounge. RSVPs are helpful to Lissette Perez-Erazo at lgp@mapc.com.

Order of Worship for Christmas Day

Prelude

La Nativité (1932)

Jean Langlais
(1907-1991)

La Crèche (*The Manger*) — Les Anges (*The Angels*)
Les Bergers (*The Shepherds*) — La Sainte Famille (*The Holy Family*)

Call to Worship

Rev. Jenny M. McDevitt

Unto us a child is born!

**And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Let us worship the One who has come to us.

Let us now come to him, joyful and triumphant.

*Hymn 41

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste Fideles

Descant: David Willcocks (1919-2015)

** Please stand in body or in spirit. For hymns, stand when the choir stands.*

A Prayer for Christmas Day

Rev. Rebecca M. Heilman

Incarnate God,

The day of joy returns and crowns another year with peace and goodwill.

Help us to rightly remember the birth of Jesus,

that we may share in the song of the angels,

the gladness of the shepherds,

and the worship of the magi.

Close the doors of hate and open the doors of love all over the world.

Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil, by the blessing that Christ brings,

and teach us to be merry with honest and hopeful hearts.

May this morning make us grateful to be your children,

and may this evening bring us to our bed with grateful thoughts,

forgiving and forgiven,

for the sake of the One born to save us. (Silent Prayer)

Kyrie Eleison

St. Louis

O holy Child of Bethlehem,

Descend to us, we pray;

**Cast out our sin and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.**

Assurance of God's Grace

Rev. Beverly A. Bartlett

... Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

*Response of Praise

Antioch

**Good Christian friends, rejoice With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now you need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

*Passing the Peace

Christina A. Cosby

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Our Life Together

*Hymn 31

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

*Mendelssohn
Descant: Willcocks*

The First Lesson

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

Luke 1:26-38
(NT page 53)

Reading

A Blessing for After

Jan Richardson

Carol

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came (1989)

*Basque Carol
arr. Anthony Prower (b. 1928)*

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady," Gloria!

“For known a blessed mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honor thee,
Thy Son shall be Emanuel, by seers foretold.
Most highly favored lady,” Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
“To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said,
“My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name.”
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

— *Rev. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)*

The Second Lesson

The Birth of Jesus

Luke 2:1-7
(NT page 54)

Carol

Spotless Rose (2013)

Ola Gjeilo
(b. 1978)

Alleluia!

A Spotless Rose is growing,
Sprung from a tender root,
Of ancient seers' foreshadowing,
Of Jesse promised fruit;
Its fairest bud unfolds to light
Amind the cold, cold winter,
And in the dark midnight.

The Rose which I am singing,
Whereof Isaiah said,
Is from its sweet root springing
In Mary, purest Maid;
Through God's great love and might
The Blessed Babe she bare us
In a cold, cold winter's night.

—*16th Century German, trans. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878)*

Chloe Holgate, soprano

*Hymn 53

What Child Is This

Greensleeves

The Third Lesson

The Shepherds and the Angels

Luke 2:8-20
(NT page 54)

Carol

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Polish Carol
arr. Gerre Hancock (1934-2012)

Infant holy, Infant lowly,
For his bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, Little knowing
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging Angels singing,
Nowells ringing, Tidings bringing,
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, Shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new;
Saw the glory, Heard the story,
Tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, Free from sorrow,
Praises voicing, Greet the morrow,
Christ the Babe was born for you!

– *trans. Edith M. Reed (1885-1933)*

Reading

Shepherd

Lisa Debney

The Fourth Lesson

The Arrival of the Magi

Matthew 2:1-12
(NT page 1)

*Hymn 36

In the Bleak Midwinter

Cranham

The Fifth Lesson

Simeon and Anna

Luke 2:25-38
(NT page 55)

Carol

When to the Temple Mary Went

Johannes Eccard
(1553-1611)

When to the temple Mary went,
And brought the Holy Child,
Him did the ancient Simeon see,
As it had been revealed;

He took up Jesus in his arms and blessing God, he said,
“In peace I now depart, My savior having seen
The hope of Israel, the light of all.”

Help now thy servants, gracious Lord,
That we may ever be

As once the faithful Simeon was,
Rejoicing but in thee;
And when we must from earth departure take
May gently fall asleep and with thee wake.

—German (16th Century), trans. John Troutbeck (1832-1899)

The Sixth Lesson

The Word Became Flesh

John 1:1-14
(NT page 86)

A Story for Christmas Day

Light Among Us

Rev. Jenny M. McDevitt

*Hymn

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Noel



1. It came up - on the mid - night clear, That glo - rious song of old,
2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come With peace - ful wings un - furled,
3. And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, Whose forms are bend - ing low,
4. For lo, the days are hast - ening on, By proph - ets seen of old,



From an - gels bend - ing near the earth, To touch their harps of gold:
And still their heaven - ly mu - sic floats O'er all the wea - ry world;
Who toil a - long the climb - ing way With pain - ful steps and slow,
When with the ev - er - circ - ling years Shall come the time fore - told:



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, From heav'n's all - gra - cious King."

A - bove its sad and low - ly plains They bend on hov - ering wing,
Look now, for glad and gold - en hours Come swift - ly on the wing.
When peace shall ov - er all the earth Its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay To hear the an - gels sing.
And ev - er o'er its Ba - bel - sounds The bless - ed an - gels sing.
O rest be - side the wea - ry road, And hear the an - gels sing!
And the whole world send back the song Which now the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund Sears (1810-1876); alt.
Music: English trad., arr. Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900)

**We believe in Jesus Christ and in the power of the Gospel which began in Bethlehem.
We believe in the One whose spirit glorified a small village,
of whose coming the shepherds saw the sign,
and for whom there was no room in the inn.
We believe in the One whose life changed the course of history,
for whom the kings of the earth had no power,
and who was not understood by the proud.
We believe in the One to whom the poor, the oppressed, the discouraged,
the afflicted, the sick, the blind and the leprous gave welcome
and accepted as Savior.
We believe in the One who, with love, changed the hearts of the proud,
and with his life, showed that it is more important to serve than to be served,
and that the greatest joy is in giving your life for others.
We believe in peace, which means justice among all peoples and nations
and love among all.
We believe in reconciliation, forgiveness and the transforming power of the gospel.
We believe that Christmas is strength and power, and that this world can change
if, with humility and faith, we kneel before the manger. Amen.**

Collection of the Offering and the Christmas Joy Offering

Offertory Carol

Il est né (1967)

*French Carol
arr. John Rutter (b. 1945)*

Il est né le Divin Enfant,
Jouez hautbois, résonnez musettes,
Il est né le Divin Enfant,
Chantons tous son avènement.

*He is born, the Divine Christ Child,
Play on the oboe and bagpipes,
He is born, the Divine Christ Child,
Join in song, for the Lord has come.*

Depuis plus de quatre mille ans
Nous le promettaient les prophètes,
Depuis plus de quatre mille ans
Nous attendions cet heureux temps.

*For more than four thousand years
We've promised by the prophets,
For more than four thousand years
We've been waiting for this happy time.*

Ah! Qu'il est beau, qu'il est charmant,
Ah! Que ses grâces sont parfaites!

*He is lovely, he has such charm!
Ah, so perfect is his grace.*

Ah! Qu'il est beau, qu'il est charmant, *He is lovely, he has such charm!*
Qu'il est doux, ce Divin Enfant! *Sweetness glows from his holy face.*

Une étable est son logement, *A stable is his lodging,*
Un peu de paille est sa couchette; *A little straw is his cradle,*
Une étable est son logement, *A stable is his lodging,*
Pour un Dieu quell abaissement! *What lowliness for a God!*

O Jésus, roi tout puissant, *O Jesus, King all-powerful,*
Si petit enfant que vous êtes; *Even if you are a little child;*
O Jésus, roi tout puissant, *O Jesus, King all-powerful,*
Régnez sur nous entièrement. *Reign over us entirely.*

Concluding Prayer

*Hymn 46

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

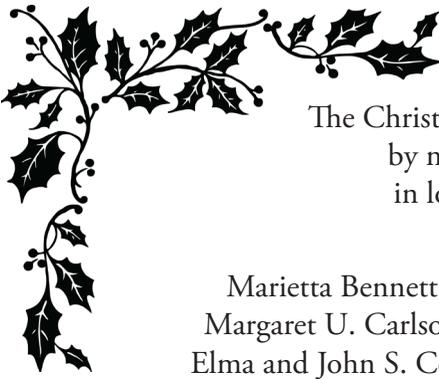
Personent Hodie

*Benediction

*Postlude

In Dulci Jubilo, BWV 729

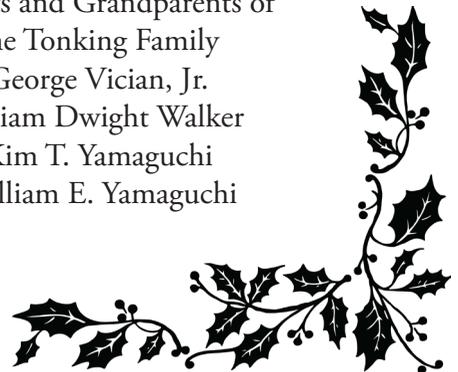
J. S. Bach
(1685-1750)



The Christmas Decorations are given to the glory of God
by members and friends of the congregation
in loving memory of the following persons:

Marietta Bennett
Margaret U. Carlson
Elma and John S. Cole
Timothy J. Connor
Timothy J. Connor, Sr.
Jack T. Cosby
G. Graydon Curtis
Florence A. Ehlinger
Melda and Bertram Danziger
Robert Joseph DeBono
Doris and Arthur Gaebler
Dr. William P. Given
Vera Julia Gordon
Lillian and Gordon Hardy
Catherine and William Hauber
Bridget and John Haugh
Edna and Edward Henderson
Gordon Henderson
Elizabeth M. Herrold
Kenneth F. Herrold
Frank Hohmann Sr.
Virginia Hohmann
Anna K. Hoffman
Anne and Harold Hudaverdi
Christine Marie Hudaverdi
Dorothy H. Hupper
Bonnie S. Johnson
Bruce F. Jones
Dorothy B. Jones
Dr. Gerald F. Jones
Minerva E. Jones
Rosemary S. Jones

Dora and Elmer Kleinert
Sabina and Frank Latall
Mr. and Mrs. L. Hudson Leathers
Josephine McFadden
Ronald E. Nichols
John Novotny
Jane Stellwagen Polk
Florence Powell
Robert Powell
R. Neil Proffitt
Rose and George Rabstajnek
Rudolph C. Rabstajnek
The Thomas Rabstajnek Family
The Rev. Dr. David H. C. Read
Patricia Gilbert Read
Marilyn and Thomas Riccardi
Evelyn Roquemore
Gloria Anne Baillie Schmitt
Dr. and Mrs. Hamilton Southworth
Esther M. and Herbert P. Stellwagen
Lillian R. Stump
Agnes and Ernest F. Sturm
Julia E. Taschereau
Parents and Grandparents of
the Tonking Family
George Vician, Jr.
Miriam Dwight Walker
Kim T. Yamaguchi
William E. Yamaguchi



You Are Invited

Thank you for spending Christmas Day with us here at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church. It is our great joy to celebrate with you. We hope you will return on a Sunday morning or for any of the events and opportunities below. There is a place for you here; we're glad to help you discover that.

Fireside Jazz

Come enjoy a New Orleans inspired menu, a jazz trio, fire in the fireplace, and lively fellowship in the Church House Lobby on January 25 from 6-9 pm. This event is one of our most popular! Childcare is available with advance reservation. The suggested donation for the evening is \$40. Contact Lissette Perez-Erao at lgp@mapc.com for more details or to sign up.

Church Family Nights

Every month, our entire church family gathers on a Friday evening for dinner, fellowship, and a movie. The gym is also open for kids to play. Our next Church Family Night is January 11. Contact Lissette Perez-Erao at lgp@mapc.com for more information and to sign up.

Tables of Eight

Beginning in late January, our Senior Pastor, Rev. Jenny McDevitt, will host dinners at the Manse in small groups of eight. Sign up for a fun and relaxing evening with Jenny and seven other MAPC members. More details are provided on the registration form available in the Narthex (forms will be available beginning in early January). You can also download the form online at mapc.com and email it to Lissette Perez-Erao at lgp@mapc.com. All are welcome — members and non-members alike.

Service and Outreach

MAPC offers several outreach programs to the surrounding community. We house an Overnight Shelter each night for those seeking permanent housing. We are always looking for volunteers, including families, to host the early or late shift. Thursday Nights our Open Table ministry feeds around 125 people. Volunteers of all ages are welcome to sign up. Both ministries create opportunities for volunteers to be in relationship with people who live a world completely different from our own. Contact Rev. Rebecca Heilman at rmh@mapc.com for more information.

Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church Day School

Did you know our Day School (ages 2-5) is ranked among the highest in the city? If you are someone you know is searching for the right place for a child get an excellent start to their education, email Becky Simon at admissions@mapc.com for more information or to arrange a tour.

New York City Children's Chorus

This graded choral program for children aged 4-18 in the metropolitan NYC area offers rigorous and rewarding instruction by Mary Huff. The NYCCC is highly sought after and has performed nationally and internationally. Contact Mary Huff at mwh@mapc.com for more information.

Who Do You Say That I Am?

a sermon series about who Jesus is and why he matters today

Rev. Jenny M. McDevitt preaching

January 13	Jesus: Son of God
January 20	Jesus: Savior of the World
January 27	Jesus: Teacher of Old Ways, Today
February 3	Jesus: Hometown Prophet
February 10	Jesus: Compelling Leader
February 17	Jesus: Reversing Everything We Know
February 24	Jesus: Unreasonable Expectations
March 3	Jesus: Always Ahead of Us

Mission Statement

The mission of the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church is to bring people into the transforming presence of Jesus Christ through worship, teaching the Word, Christian nurture, and ministry in and to the world. As Christ's ministers, our members are striving to build a community of God's love, justice, and mercy, trusting God to lead us into faithfulness.

Ministry Team Staff

The Rev. Jenny M. McDevitt, *Senior Pastor and Head of Staff*

The Rev. Beverly A. Bartlett, *Associate Pastor*

Christina A. Cosby, *Director of Christian Formation*

Laura Graham, *Director of the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church Day School*

The Rev. Rebecca M. Heilman, *Pastoral Resident*

Dr. Andrew E. Henderson, *Director of Music and Organist*

Mary W. Huff, *Associate Director of Music and Director of the NYC Children's Chorus*

Roger S. Pierce, Jr., *Director of Administration and Finance*

Chesna E. Hinkley, *Seminary Intern*

Audrey E. Webber, *Seminary Intern*

The Rev. Dr. Fred R. Anderson, *Pastor Emeritus*

Dr. John B. Weaver, *Director of Music and Organist Emeritus*